

IN THE CLAIMS

1.-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 6~~ Claim 12 wherein the sample tested is human urine.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 6~~ Claim 12 wherein 25-hydroxyvitamin D binding activity in the urine is deemed indicative of salt sensitivity or predisposition to salt-associated hypertension.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method of calculating specific 25-hydroxyvitamin D binding activity in urine samples of an individual by subtracting measured 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ binding in samples in the presence of both labeled and excess unlabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ from 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ binding in samples containing only labeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ but to which no unlabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ has been added, to determine salt sensitivity.

11. (Currently Amended) The kit of ~~claim 5~~ Claim 13 containing, additionally, dextran coated charcoal.

12. (New) A method of determining specific 25-hydroxyvitamin D binding activity in a urine sample comprising the steps of:

(1) adding a known amount of radiolabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ to two or more identical samples of urine from an individual and a known amount of excess unlabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ to half of the samples to compete with the radiolabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ for binding proteins in the urine;

- (2) incubating all samples prepared in step (1) to allow radiolabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ binding to proteins in the urine;
- (3) incubating samples prepared in step (2) in buffered dextran-coated charcoal, then centrifuging to precipitate the unbound radiolabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃
- (4) measuring the average radioactivity in the supernatant of each sample of step (3);
- (5) comparing the average radioactivity in the samples containing excess unlabeled 25-hydroxy vitamin D₃ with those to which no unlabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ had been added to determine 25-hydroxyvitamin D binding proteins in the urine with the excess amount of binding in samples which lacked the unlabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ acting as a standard for amount of hydroxyl vitamin D binding in samples to which 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ has not been added wherein increased binding in the samples which lacked unlabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ is deemed indicative of excess 25 hydroxyvitamin D binding.

13. (New) A test kit comprising radiolabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃, unlabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ and charcoal but no antibodies.